

Western extends comment deadline on Path 15 Supplement Analysis

Western Area Power Administration has extended the comment deadline for the Path 15 Project environmental Supplement Analysis from Sept. 4 to Sept. 18 to give the public additional time to review the document.

The Path 15 Project includes a proposed 500-kV power transmission line between the Los Banos Substation and the Gates Substation near Coalinga, along with other transmission system improvements.



The impacts of a Los Banos-Gates transmission line were discussed in a 1988 Environmental Impact Statement. The Supplement Analysis was prepared to determine if there are any substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns, or if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. The Supplement Analysis did not identify any substantial changes to the significant environmental impacts identified in the 1988 EIS, or any new significant impacts.

Based on the findings of this Supplement Analysis, a supplemental EIS is not required. Public workshops to discuss the Supplement Analysis were held Aug. 27 in Coalinga and Aug. 28 in Los Banos.

Attendees at the workshops discussed a number of issues including whether the lines could be placed underground, the potential effects on wildlife, the necessity of the project, electro-magnetic fields and the relationship to the state process that is considering the project. The main issue raised by attendees was potential land use impacts. Landowners expressed concern that a transmission line would interfere with their orchards, reduce property values or create other problems.

The Supplement Analysis and other Path 15 information is available on the Internet or by calling toll-free: 1-866-290-9686. Log on to **www.wapa.gov** and click on "Path 15."

To submit comments:

- E-mail them to: **path15@wapa.gov**
- Fax them to: 1-916-985-1934
- Mail them to: Tom Boyko
Path 15 Project Manager
Western Area Power Administration
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630-4710